service may be charged by the Licensee from the Mobile Subscribers without prior approval of Authority.

7. the subscriber is free to procure terminal equipment from any source. The rental does not include the subscriber terminal.

Charges by A T & T for Long Distance Calls to US

2420. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the A T & T the US telecom giant, is charging less, as compared to the DOT, for long distance calls to the United States;

(b) whether it is also a fact that A T & T is able to charge less becuase their price reflects only the cost for placing calls between US and India;

(c) if so, whether it is a fact that this amounts to playing unfair business practice; and

(d) if so, whether Government are contemplating to stop this pilferage leading to loss of revenue for the DOT on the one hand while unfair competitive advantage for the A T & T on the other?

THE MINSITER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (d) A T & T does not provide long distance calls from India to U.S.A. However, Home Direct Services have been given wherein a call can be made from India to U.S.A. and A T & T raises bill to the called party in U.S.A. Tariff to U.S. subscriber is dependent on various factors which are different in each country and are not comparable.

Preservation of Ecology

2421. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prospecting and exploitation of iron-ore, coal and other minerals have posed a grave threat to the ecology by way of endangering wild life and denuding of forests;

(b) if so, which are the main wild life sanctuaries and reserves facing the problem; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to preserve the ecology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the event of damage to wildlife habitats and obstruction to the movement of wildlife, the exploitation of ores and minerals and large scale prospecting in and around wildlife habitats can pose a potentital threat to the ecology of wildlife. Some of the main wildlife sanctuaries and reserves reported to have been affected by quarrying and exploitation of mineral wealth in the past are Sariska Tiger Reserve, Buxa Tiger Reserve, Ranthambore National Park & Tiger Reserve, and Valmiki Tiger Reserve.

(c) With a view to conserve and protect ecology, Government have issued the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification dated 27th January, 1994, amended on 4th May 1994. It has been *inter-alia* stipulated that mining projects for major minerals with leases more than 5 ha., as well as prospecting and exploration of major minerals in areas above 500 ha., are required to carry out the impact assessment study which *inter-alia* includes study on wildlife and forests, if applicable and no such activities shall be undertaken till it has been accorded clearance from environmetal angle by the

Central Government in accordance with the procedures specified therein.

Technology for Regeneration of Degraded Land

2422. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and development has developed a new technology for regeneration of degraded land by construction of water sheds in catchment areas;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the extent to which it is likely to be helpful for achieving socio-economic development togetherwith the Himalayan environment regeneration; and

(d) the other main research/ development works undertaken by this institute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) The G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development has prepared an outline of a package, namely "Sloping Watershed Environmental Engineering Technology (SWEET)", for regeneration of degraded watersheds.

A Statement giving its salient features, likely benefits and major Research & Development works being done by the Institute is enclosed.

Statement

The G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development has proposed an outline of a technology package 'Sloping Watershed Environmental Engineering Technology (SWEET)' for regeneration of degraded watersheds. The package includes implementation of measures dealing with prevention of open grazing, improvements in water harvesting, increasing fodder supply, controlling soil erosion, adoption of mixed cropping system wherever possible, growing indigenous plant species for silvi-agriculture and soil management laying emphais on use of organic manure. The package is under field trials. Extension of this approach to large scale application will depend upon the results of the field trials.

The Institute udnertakes research studies in multidisciplinary aspects of environmental management covered in its six core programmes namely, land and water resource management, sustainable development of rural ecosystem, conservaiton of biological diversity, ecological economics and environmental impact analysis biotechnology and development of an information system on Himalayan ecology.

"Pollution in Delhi"

2423. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had taken some steps to control pollution in Delhi in the past;

(b) if so, whether those steps have yielded any useful results and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government had also launched some drive to check pollution in the river Yamuna and the ground water; and

(d) if so, whether these steps have brought any useful results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The steps taken by the Government for control of pollution from thermal power plants, vehicles and industries have helped in decreasing pollution load from these